

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 146758

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH
STEVEN), HUNTER, CARRIE)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

NAIROBI FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS

REF: DAR 2210, 2211

1. IN TELETYPE CONFERENCE WITH VANCE AND EMBASSY KINSHASA
WE WERE INFORMED THAT DUTCH AMBASSADOR CANNOT EFFECTIVELY
GET ANY MESSAGE ACROSS TO GOZ SINCE HE HAS BEEN UNABLE EVEN
TO DELIVER SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM QUEEN EITHER TO MOBUTU OR
FONMIN.

2. VANCE AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF HIS INFORMING MOBUTU DURING
BREAKFAST MEETING JUNE 23 OF DISCUSSIONS IN TANZANIA WITH
PRP INTERMEDIARIES LEADING TO AGREEMENT TO RELEASE
STUDENTS FOR PAYMENT OF RANSOM BY PARENTS. HE WILL ALSO
THANK MOBUTU FOR HIS EARLIER ORDERS TO HIS MILITARY FORCES

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TO HOLD OFF FROM ANY ACTION AGAINST PRP WHICH MIGHT EN-

DANGER LIVES OF STUDENTS, AND ASK THAT GOZ FORCES CONTINUE

TO STAND DOWN DURING CRUCIAL PERIOD OF NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS
UNTIL RELEASE OF STUDENTS SECURED.

3. VANCE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF DESIRE OF EMBASSY DAR
TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN EFFECTING SAFE RELEASE OF
STUDENTS, BUT ADDED THAT HE HOPED TO EXTENT POSSIBLE
DAR COULD MOVE ITSELF ONCE MORE INTO BACKGROUND. IN THIS
CONNECTION WE NOTE THAT NO ONE FROM EMBASSY WILL BE
ACCOMPANYING PARTY WHICH IS TRAVELING TO KIGOMA TOMORROW
IN TWO CHARTER AIRCRAFT. ADDITIONALLY, EMBOFF WHOM WE
UNDERSTAND IS CURRENTLY IN KIGOMA SHOULD NOT BE PRESENT
AT ANY EXCHANGE OR PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN ANY OF FINAL
ACTIONS LEADING TO SUCH EXCHANGE.

4. EMBASSY KINSHASA AND DEPARTMENT ALSO CONCERNED THAT
THERE COULD BE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IN ZAIRE IF PRP HAVE
PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEMSELVES WITH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND
POSSIBLY OTHER EMBOFFS TAKEN IN U.S. EMBASSY WHICH THEY
COULD LATER MAKE PUBLIC. REQUEST EMBASSY NOT RPT NOT
PROVIDE SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS TO PRP REPS.

5. IN DEALING WITH QUERIES FROM PRESS NOW AND AFTER
RELEASE IS ACCOMPLISHED, YOU SHOULD SEEK TO EXTENT
PLAUSIBLE TO PROJECT PICTURE OF MINIMAL USG ROLE INVOLVE-
MENT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRP AND TO MAKE CLEAR IN ANSWER
TO QUESTIONS ABOUT RANSOM THAT PAYMENT WAS REFUSED BY USG
AND WAS MADE BY PARENTS AT THEIR OWN INITIATIVE. WHILE
IT MAY WELL "EMERGE" FROM OTHER SOURCES, YOU SHOULD NOT
RPT NOT IDENTIFY US EMBASSY AS FOCUS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

6. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING HERE AND IN KINSHASA THAT
RELEASE OPERATIONS WILL PROCEED AS OUTLINED REFTELS. YOU
SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT IF VANCE CONCLUDES, ON BASIS
OF MOBUTU REACTION, THAT EXCHANGE WOULD BE PERILOUS, HE
WILL REQUEST DAR AND DEPT. BY FLASH MESSAGE TO PUT ON
BRAKE. SISCO

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